

ANIMAL LAW NEWS – October 2017

Pennsylvania

Heidelberg Township, Lehigh County: Derbe "Skip" Eckhart charged with 58 counts of cruelty following a raid on his facility; neglect and cruelty prosecutions against him, and seizures of animals, at various of his facilities date to 1988:
mcall.com/opinion/white/mc-bw-skip-eckhart-20170918-story.html

United States

Employers offer voluntary benefits for pet care if employee hospitalized, and pet insurance:

employeefitadviser.com/news/how-group-voluntary-benefits-are-changing
lendedu.com/blog/more-employers-offering-pet-insurance-benefits

Law student animal law writing contest:

law.gonzaga.edu/blog/companion-animal-law-writing-contest/

Ninth Circuit (California):

Association des Eleveurs v. Becerra, No. 15-55192, D.C. No. 2:12-cv-05735 (9th Cir., filed September 15, 2017). Upholds California's ban on sales of foie gras produced by force-feeding; statute gave 7-year grace period to convert to non-force methods; statute not preempted by federal Poultry Products Inspection Act by imposing an "ingredient requirement"; states may regulate animal husbandry for food production, hence ban a method deemed cruel and inhumane; court notes birds are force fed, not their livers, as plaintiff foie gras providers argued.

District Court (Michigan):

Smith v. City of Detroit, No. 2:16-cv-11882-GCS-EAS (E.D.Mich., August 2, 2017). Summary judgment for all defendants in suit for police shooting three dogs during execution of a home search warrant for drugs, despite conflicting evidence of the circumstances of the shootings; judge compared the unlicensed dogs to "illegal property or contraband," so that plaintiffs had no legitimate possessory interest under the Fourth Amendment; Court Order:

documentcloud.org/documents/3912063-8-2-2017-Smith-Opinion-and-Order.html

Eighth Circuit (Missouri):

Hansen v. Black, No. 16-4162 (8th Cir., filed September 18, 2017). No unconstitutional seizure where police officer shot dog who escaped from yard and created extensive traffic hazard on interstate; officer shot dog after several failed attempts to catch him or chase him off the highway; officer would have been entitled to qualified immunity; court notes such cases are always "tragic."

Florida:

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services sues Wild Things for alleged violations of state law regarding fund-raising and non-profits:

capitalsoup.com/2017/10/05/fdacs-sues-dade-citys-wild-things/

International

Canada:

Animal Justice sues Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry for allegedly insufficient actions to protect 37 species listed under the Endangered Species Act:

thelawyersdaily.ca/articles/4713/ontario-government-sued-for-lack-of-action-on-endangered-species

India:

NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, opens nation's first Centre for Animal Law: windowtonews.com/news.php

thebetterindia.com/116502/personhood-animals-heres-indias-first-animal-law-center-will-explore/

United Kingdom:

Call for Papers for Oxford Summer School 2018: Animal Ethics and Law: Affecting Positive Change for Animals

einnews.com/pr_news/406003811/call-for-papers-for-oxford-summer-school-2018

Non-legal news

Dog Is My Co-Pilot:

generalaviationnews.com/2017/08/28/dog-is-my-co-pilot/